security forces deployed for Yatra security this time was higher than last year. The functional and territorial jurisdictions and tasks of various forces and units as regards area domination and presence on the heights along the route, road opening parties (RoPs), escort duty, camp security, access control and manning of check posts, anti-sabotage checks etc. had been fixed in advance by the State Government. For the better coordination and planning of security arrangements for the Yatra 2001, an apex body was formed by State Government consisting of all members of the Core Group of UHQ at Srinagar with Chief Executive Officer, Shrine Board and concerned DIGs and Brigadiers as special invitees. Security coordination groups for the Yatra had also been constituted at lower levels.

Government has reviewed the security measures in consultation with the State Government with a view to strengthen the renewed security arrangements for test of the Amarnath Yatra Period.

Special Police Officers in Delhi Police

1857. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Special Police Officers at present working with the Delhi Police; and

(b) whether Special Police Officers are appointed for life or they have a fixed tenure and the conditions of their appointment including the privileges available to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) The number of Special Police Officers at present associated with Delhi Police is 979.

(b) The appointment as SPOs in Delhi Police is made for a period of one year. Any able bodied person who has attained the age of 18 years can be appointed as a SPO, if he enjoys a good reputation and is able to assist the police in maintaining Law and Order. Every Special Police Officer on appointment receives a certificate of appointment and an identity card.